

Application Serial No. 10/590,684
Official Action Mailed: June 2, 2009
Amendment Dated: July 1, 2009

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully submit that, as amended, the claims of Groups I and II share sufficient subject matter that if examined together, there would not be a serious burden imposed upon the Examiner and PCT Rule 13.1 has been satisfied.

More specifically, the tunnel, the elevator system, the wheel mechanism including the beam and wheels, the leg support and the foot portion are shared features of Groups I and II. Thus, Applicants submit that no serious burden exists because the same, or a very similar, search is required for a proper examination of all of the pending claims. Also, as amended, Group II now lacks the angle detector referred to by the Examiner in the Restriction.

For the above reasons, Applicants respectfully request that Groups I and II as amended be examined together. In the event that the Examiner determines there are outstanding issues that can be resolved by telephone, he is urged to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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